



## Henderson-Guenther recognized as leader in vocational rehabilitation profession

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MADISON – Rehabilitation for Wisconsin has awarded the 2015 Government Leadership Award to Deb Henderson-Guenther for her work in the Client Assistance Program (CAP), which is administered by the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection.

As a community services advocate for CAP, Henderson-Guenther provides information, referral and dispute-resolution services to people with disabilities. In addition to helping clients across Wisconsin, Henderson-Guenther says she is passionate about helping her colleagues grow in their professional development so they can better help others.

“I feel it is important for counselors to have a professional identity and to enhance their professional development in order to better help the people they serve,” Henderson-Guenther said. “They touch so many individuals’ lives and can have such a profound impact on people’s lives.”



Henderson-Guenther is a certified rehabilitation counselor. Her job is to field calls from clients who have concerns or questions about the vocational rehabilitation services they receive through the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development’s Division of Vocational Rehabilitation. The clients typically are people with disabilities who might need adaptive equipment or specific accommodations in order to obtain or maintain jobs. Often, they are adults with physical or mental impairments and have been out of the workforce for some time. Henderson-Guenther works with clients with all types of disabilities and employment goals, including those who are farming or working in other areas of agriculture. She also mentors students attending the University of Wisconsin’s vocational rehabilitation education programs.

In his letter of support, Wisconsin Rehabilitation Association President John Lui said Henderson-Guenther has spent “tireless hours” to plan and prepare professional development opportunities at the state and local level.

“She has demonstrated the abilities and qualities of an exceptional community builder and visionary,” Lui wrote.

Henderson-Guenther is a past president of the Wisconsin Rehabilitation Association and has been active in the national association, as well. She has worked for CAP since 1998. Previously she worked as the vocational rehabilitation coordinator for Mendota Mental Health Institute. While working at Mendota, she earned her master’s degree in rehabilitation psychology from UW-Madison.

The Government Leadership Award is given annually to an “outstanding” government official or employee. The award was announced today during the annual Rehabilitation and Transition Conference in Green Bay.

For more information about CAP services, visit <https://dwd.wisconsin.gov/dvr/cap.htm>.

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